

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 3-9 were rejected. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection, and no further amendments have been made in this Reply. Claims 1 and 3-9 remain pending in the application.

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by the Poe et al. reference, US Patent No.: 6,691,037. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Poe et al. reference discloses a method for calibrating a formation permeability model using data from fluid flow measurements. Embodiments of the method involve modeling formation permeability based on data derived from fluid flow measurement analysis. The data may comprise well transient test analyses or production performance analyses. (See column 2, lines 37-46). According to one embodiment of the methodology, a first step may comprise determining a correlation coefficient for a porosity-irreducible water saturation relationship via, for example, graphical analysis. (See column 8, lines 23-32). However, the Poe et al. reference does not appear to discuss determination of a permeability profile from pressure measurements, as recited in independent claim 1.

Accordingly, the Poe et al. reference fails to disclose or suggest elements of the presently pending claims. By way of specific examples, the cited reference does not disclose or suggest "obtaining pressure measurements" along a wellbore during flowing of the well, or "using a model to determine from the pressure measurements a distribution of a permeability profile" as recited in independent claim 1. Claim 5 directly depends from independent claim 1 and recites additional elements. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1 and 5 under 35 USC 102(e) is not supported, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over the Poe et al. reference in view of the Tubel et al. reference, US Publication No.: 2001/0023614. This rejection is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration of the rejection is requested. Claim 6 ultimately

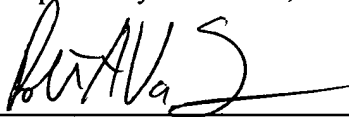
depends from independent claim 1 and recites additional elements. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 6 should be withdrawn for the reasons provided above with respect to independent claim 1 and for the additional subject matter recited in this dependent claim. The Tubel et al. reference fails to obviate the deficiencies of disclosure found in the Poe et al. reference as discussed above with respect to independent claim 1. Accordingly, no prima facie case of obviousness can be established, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC 103(a).

Claims 3, 4 and 7-9 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over the Poe et al. reference in view of the Ramakrishnan et al. reference, US Patent No.: 5,992,519. This rejection is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration of the rejection is requested. Claims 3, 4 and 7-9 ultimately depend from independent claim 1 and recite additional elements. Therefore, the rejection of claims 3, 4 and 7-9 should be withdrawn for the reasons provided above with respect to independent claim 1 and for the additional subject matter recited in these dependent claims. The Ramakrishnan et al. reference fails to obviate the deficiencies of disclosure found in the Poe et al. reference as discussed above with respect to independent claim 1. Accordingly, no prima facie case of obviousness can be established, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC 103(a).

In view of the foregoing remarks, all pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner believes certain amendments are necessary to clarify the present claims or if the Examiner wishes to resolve other issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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